

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 OMB-01
AID-05 IGA-02 /096 W
-----311249Z 003840 /45

P R 311204Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4520
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08963

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS BC UK
SUBJECT: BOTSWANA COMMANDER MERAFHE'S LONDON VISIT

1. MERAFHE'S VISIT TO LONDON LAST WEEK DID NOT RESULT
IN ANY CONCLUSIVE UK-BOTSWANAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS.
FCO ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT HEAD DAVID SPRAGUE SAID THAT
WHILE MERAFHE'S TRIP WAS "PRIVATE," BOTH THE FOREIGN
OFFICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OPENED THEIR DOORS TO HIM
(TED ROWLANDS HOSTED A LUNCH FOR MERAFHE).

2. SPRAGUE SAID MERAFHE "SEEMED TO BE FEELING HIS WAY
AS A MILITARY MAN." SEVERAL PROBLEMS IN THE BOTSWANAN
DEFENSE FORCE WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE TALKS BUT
MERAFHE WAS CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING SOLUTIONS. SPRAGUE
SAID BOTSWANA'S PRINCIPLE REQUIREMENTS--BEYOND EQUIP-
MENT--WERE TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION.

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3. THE DEFENSE FORCE NEEDS TRAINING FOR ITS PLATOON AND
COMPANY COMMANDERS, ITS SIGNALS AND MOTOR TRANSPORT
UNITS, AND ITS NCO'S. HMG IS PREPARED TO FINANCE SOME
OF THE NECESSARY TRAINING. MOST COURSES ARE BOOKED WELL
IN ADVANCE, HOWEVER, AND MERAFHE WAS URGED TO DEVELOP
HIS SPECIFIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MERAFHE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO DO SO.

4. ON ORGANIZATION, HMG OFFERED ADVICE ON ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES FOR THE FORCE. THE BRITISH ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO BOTSWANA TO STUDY ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS. MERAFHE SAID HE WOULD "BEAR IT IN MIND."

5. OTHER THAN REITERATING UK POLICY ON EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE, SPRAGUE DID NOT SAY WHAT ARMS SALES OPPORTUNITIES MERAFHE INVESTIGATED PRIVATELY WHILE HE WAS HERE.

6. COMMENT: THE BRITISH ARE EAGER TO BE RESPONSIVE, WITHIN THEIR OWN LIMITS, TO BOTSWANA'S DEFENSE NEEDS, BUT FOUND MERAFHE LESS FORTHCOMING THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, UK, (MERAFHE, MS), (SPRAGUE, DAVID)
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